



KŪKULU KE EA A KANALOA

KAHOʻOLawe ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION

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NEWS RELEASE

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KIRC DRIVING-FORCE, COLETTE MACHADO, STEPPING DOWN

Longest-Serving Commissioner an Original Warrior Who Fought for Island's Return

Wailuku, HI, June 21, 2005—The commissioners and staff of the Kahoʻolawe Island Reserve Commission (KIRC) today honored Commissioner Colette Yvette Piʻipiʻi Machado, the longest-serving member of the Commission, at her final Commission meeting. Commission Chair Emmett Aluli spoke for the entire commission, saying, “We extend our heartfelt aloha nui loa and mahalo nui loa to Colette. We count on her to continue providing wisdom and support and we look forward to drawing on her wealth of experience and her expert manaʻo in the future.”

Machado's term on the Kahoʻolawe Island Reserve Commission (KIRC) expires on June 30, 2005. She has served on the Commission continuously since 1994, first on behalf of the Protect Kahoʻolawe ʻOhana and then as a representative of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs. Fellow commissioner Burt Sakata said, “As a KIRC commissioner, Colette has given unconditionally of her time, experience and resources to the people of the State of Hawaiʻi and gone far beyond what is normally expected of a commissioner. She has an unshakable commitment to the Native Hawaiian community and made it her personal mission to preserve and protect the cultural significance of Kahoʻolawe on behalf of those who have passed on before us, for the people of today, and for the generations yet to come.”

Machado's involvement with the protection and restoration of Kaho'olawe began more than 25 years ago as a member of the original Kaho'olawe activist group Hui Ala Loa on Moloka'i and continued with the Protect Kaho'olawe 'Ohana and the KIRC. Machado was instrumental in the negotiation and implementation of a court-ordered consent decree that was signed by the U.S. Navy and the Protect Kaho'olawe 'Ohana (PKO) in 1980 under which the U.S. Navy limited ordnance delivery training to one-third of the island and suspended bombing for 10 days of each month to allow PKO access, clear surface ordnance, begin soil conservation and reforestation.

Machado played an integral role in establishing regular 'Ohana access, from the setting up of camp and running of the kitchen, to the formulation of safety rules and cultural protocols. Throughout her service on the KIRC, Commissioner Machado has maintained a strategic vision for Kaho'olawe rooted in her ancestral knowledge of the island.

As an activist, she personified the force of grassroots Native Hawaiians in stopping the bombing of Kaho'olawe and returning the island to the people of Hawai'i and recently organized a special gathering on the island to honor those "early warriors" who fought to save Kaho'olawe. She brought this grassroots perspective to all her work: negotiating the transfer of Kaho'olawe from the U.S. Navy to the State of Hawai'i, conducting the massive ordnance clean up, and establishing the management of the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve.

Machado was component in the design of the strategic plan for the protection and restoration of the natural and cultural resources of the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve and the development of the KIRC's budget, personnel, infrastructure, and overall organization. And from the agency's beginning, she personally mentored the KIRC executive staff, drawing on her experience in serving on the State of Hawai'i Land Use Commission, Department of Hawaiian Homeland Commission; and the Office of Hawaiian Affairs.

Machado also represented the KIRC and the interests of Native Hawaiian people on the national stage in Washington, D.C. and elsewhere and played a major role in projecting Kaho‘olawe as a national treasure of extraordinary cultural and spiritual significance for Native Hawaiians by advocating KIRC sponsorship of the exhibit, "Kaho‘olawe: Rebirth of a Sacred Hawaiian Island" at the Smithsonian National Museum.

KIRC Executive Director Sol Kaho‘ohalahala stated, “Part of Colette’s legacy with the Commission will be the dissemination of the Kaho‘olawe curriculum in all the schools of Hawai‘i, public and private, from kindergarten through 12th Grade; and the creation of public educational materials promoting awareness of the importance of Kaho‘olawe through newsletters, videos, DVDs, and the KIRC website.”

Machado continues serving as the OHA trustee for Moloka‘i and Lana‘i and as president and executive director of Ke Kua Aina Hanauna Hou, which has been instrumental in the development of the commercial seaweed industry on Moloka‘i. Under her direction, the organization has grown to provide a significant boost to the Moloka‘i economy. She also continues to devote considerable time to other economic development initiatives on Moloka‘i.

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